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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

An Honorable Career.

MARSHALL FIELD is supposed to have "left an enormous fortune, enormous even in these days of great fortunes. No envy seems to have been nourished against him in his lifetime. General regret was shown at his death. In Chicago he was the first as well as the richest citizen. The red mouthed yapping at the rich spared him. He was known to have acquired his wealth honestly. He used it modestly and worthily. On a much larger scale he was a "merchant prince" of the old school, a school not extinct. His business methods were straightforward and honorable. He did not bilk or prey upon the public. So he had what ostentatious subscriptions and staring philanthropies cannot gain for some other men, unforced public respect. He did not have to seek it noisily. He did not have to try to cover up doubtful transactions with a halo or to bribe his way into "society" or heaven with benefactions in the nature of repentance.

A perfectly simple and old fashioned career. And it shows that in spite of all the wild demagogic yawp against the rich there is no prejudice against honorable wealth with no stain upon its title and no shirking of its responsibilities.

The Danger of Religious Controversy.

This is the first protest we have received against the religious discussions of Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH, so far as they relate to the Roman Catholic Church. It is true that his position has been controverted by priests of that Church, but this lay correspondent is the first Catholic who has objected to their publication altogether:

" To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: At the conclusion of your leading editorial to-day, 'A Profitless Controversy,' THE SUN says truly that 'quarreiling over religion is a giaring defiance of the spirit of Christianity.' It is equally true that to sneer at and hold up to ridicule the things and persons held in reverence by thousands of your readers is a violation of the spirit of Christian charity and a breach of good manners.

" As a Catholic I don't like Mr. Goldwin Smith's attacks on my Church to be seen by my children, and I don't think it is fair on your part to introduce such controversial matter into unsuspecting homes. Controversies of this kind seem to me entirely out of place in your columns. Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH should seek the columns of periodicals devoted to the class of literature in which his effusions might and property is constantly transferred properly appear. BROOKLYN, Jan. 14."

Our Brooklyn friend's accusation that Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH "sneers" at the Roman Catholic Church and "ridicules" it is, however, without foundation. So as the basis of all theology.

dangerous, for religious partisanship is the building industry. still strong, and any questioning of expressed by our correspondent. But explain that his critical suggestion had no reference to the creed and history of that Church, but related only to two particular miracles.

His general position with regard to the Old Testament has been sustained, to some extent at least, even by a distinguished Roman Catholic priest and scholar in two letters to THE SUN. Nothing said by him attacks the faith his discussion has always been serious and respectful of all religious belief, whose possible destruction he looks on with grave misgivings.

For that reason it has called out replies from eminent Catholic theologians who have welcomed the spirit of inquiry manifested by him as provocative of thought on the subject of religion which they are glad to see aroused at a time when religious indifference is so frequent. If we should allow the controversy to continue hundreds of Roman Catholic priests would eagerly enter into the disputation and rejoice to see it going on. The subject, however, has been amply discussed already in these columns, and the letter above from a Roman Catholic layman proves that it could hardly fail to provoke exasperation if it was continued.

Cotton Crop Reports.

So far as it relates to the cotton crop, the report of the Keep Commission leads to only one conclusion—that the entire system is wrong and that the submitted estimates are unreliable. Assuming that the collection and publication of such data are proper functions of the Government, there is no visible reason why the work should not be done effectively.

If the work is to be done at all it should be done systematically. Theoretically the elready on such a basis. In fact it is not. From the Department of Agriculture we get estimates and reports of crop conditions and prospects. From the Department of Commerce and Labor we get reports of the quantity of cotton actually ginned up to the date of the report. For its official estimates the Department of Agriculture obtains reports from nearly 65,000 people. As our cotton acreage approximates 30,000,-000 acres, the average appears to be one reporter for every 460 acres, or for every three-quarters of a square mile. In that under normal conditions it outruns other words, some 65,000 people calculate, or reckon, or guess that the crop in their neighborhood will be about so | marily by the enactment of a new tene- | contract obligations may not only themselves,

much. A bureau of statistics sits in judgment on these 65,000 reports and calculates, reckons, or guesses on their probable accuracy.

The entire work should be combined under one bureau, preferably the Census Bureau. There should be no difficulty in mapping out the cotton area on a scale of grand divisions and subdivisions. A properly paid official in charge of a grand division might have control over and be held responsible for the local agents appointed to report from the subdivisions. The same agent should report on crop outlook and ginned results. His guesses on probable crops would thus be checked up by results as shown by ginning returns. All should be under an official inspection system.

A farmer who does not know, or who cannot ascertain with fair accuracy, the condition of the cotton crop within five miles of his home is not quite enough of a man of affairs to qualify him to make a report of any kind. With 5,000 subdivisions and an agent in each the individual agent need cover only about ten square miles, all of which would be within easy walking distance of his The entire force might thus be reduced from 65,000 to about 6,500 and greater individual responsibility be combined with much greater simplicity of system.

If we are to have crop reports at all we should get them by systematized business methods which will be a fair guarantee of their trustworthiness.

New York's Building Boom.

This town has had many notable real estate booms, but none comparable in size or importance with the one that is now in progress. A peculiar feature of the present boom is that it is concerned chiefly with property in the lower grade residence districts. The average amount of money involved in each transaction is small for New York, but the total invest-Pment is beyond all precedent. The buying is done by people of moderate, even narrow, means as well as by capitalists, and is for the most part of the speculative order.

Many of the purchasers are poor, though thrifty, Russian Jews, several of whom frequently combine their meagre savings in order to raise the few thousand dollars which, with the assistance of a big mortgage, will enable them to acquire a tenement house or a holding of vacant land. As a rule the Jewish immigrant's first ambition after securing the means of subsistence is to become an owner of landed property, the position of landlord commanding social distinction among a race which in its native country was generally debarred from possession of the soil.

In consequence of this passion for realty ownership a large proportion of the landed property in the Jewish tenement districts has passed into the hands of small owners. It is heavily mortgaged, having, in the language of Wall Street, been purchased on margin. As the new proprietors are by heredity traders and speculators, opportunities for profit taking are seldom neglected, at small advances in price, coupled usually with additional mortgage incum-

The speculation in the Jewish districts is duplicated on a lesser scale in the other foreign colonies, especially the Italian. far from that, Mr. SMITH has always Though fewer in number, the Italians. treated it with respect. His criticisms, like the Jews, display a marked tendency too, apply not only to that Church, but to employ their savings in realty investto the whole theory of supernaturalism | ment and speculation. They also are keen traders, and many of them become The discussion of the subject in a professional builders and operators after secular paper, we will acknowledge, is rising from the ranks of day laborers in

The tenement house speculation is Roman Catholic dogmas especially is practically general throughout the city. likely to provoke resentment like that Induced by offers of heretofore unheard of prices old New York families notable Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH has taken pains to for their wealth are parting with holdings of tenement property inherited debt free from a period when such property constituted a relatively more important form of investment than it does now. The buyers are almost invariably operators who, in order to carry out the transaction, mortgage the property and afterward sell it again in small parcels. At present the ownership of tenement houses is probably more widely distributed than of that Church especially. The tone of | it has ever been in the past, but also

> The tenement house boom is supported principally by people of moderate resources, and especially by members of the foreign colonies. The speculation in vacant land is shared by a much larger public. Acreage in the outskirts of the city is bought by syndicates of capitalists from all over the country, and subdivided into building sites, which in turn are bought for a rise by people of limited capital, not only in New York but elsewhere. Indeed, thousands of lots have been sold by mail or through canvassers to small "investors" in New England and in the middle West. The bulk of the vacant lots is, of course, sold on the instalment plan or subject to mortgages.

more heavily encumbered with debt.

At least two-thirds of the current sales of real estate affect tenement houses or vacant lots. The tenement house boom has been on an unprecedented scale for upward of three years, the lot boom for fully two years. In the opinion of many competent observers the speculation has been carried beyond the point of safety However, the trading shows no sign of diminishing. On the contrary, it is more active now than it was a year ago, the speculative temper having in the meantime grown more prevalent among people incapable of distinguishing between temporary and permanent tendencies in the market for real property. According to the popular opinion, an opinion expressed editorially in certain of our newspapers, the growth of New York is so extraordinary that prices which to-day appear inflated must shortly represent intrinsic values.

However, the shortage of housing which gave rise to the existing boom in | intimidation of any kind in their efforts to induce the lower grade residence districts was not caused by any increase in the city's about to take the strikers' places to refrain from rate of growth. The speculative build- doing so; neither have they the right as pickets or ing industry in New York is so extensive and has at its command so much capital rather than falls behind the demand for housing. The shortage was caused pri-

ment house law, which increased the cost of construction and for a time almost completely stopped building in the residence districts. But the increase in cost of construction was eventually more than offset by higher rents and by the extension of rapid transit to cheap land uptown. Not only has building been resumed but the shortage of housing promises to be replaced soon by a serious oversupply.

The buildings projected under the tenement house law in 1902 provided only 7.582 new apartments. The number of new apartments provided in 1903 was of 1900 the average household in New York contains 4.5 persons. On the basis of this percentage the apartments projected last year should provide for 347,-782 people. In the course of last year, however, plans were also filed for about 9,000 dwellings. What proportion of these were two family houses is not known, but it is safe to say that they will provide housing for 50,000 persons.

Together the tenements and dwellings projected in 1905 will therefore accommodate in the neighborhood of 400,000 people. On the other hand, the State census, taken last June, showed an annual average growth in population during the preceding five years of only 115,420. Basing a judgment upon the only authentic statistical information at hand, it is impossible to escape the conclusion that the city will presently have to face serious results from overspeculation and overbuilding.

The gravity of the situation is heightened by the fact that interest rates have been raised in consequence of the mortgage tax which went into effect last July. As we have seen, a tremendous quantity of real estate has passed into the hands of small investors and operators. Much of it was bought at inflated prices and practically all of it is heavily mortgaged. In seeking to renew mortgages that fall due owners will probably find themselves called upon not merely to pay higher interest rates but to pay off part of the principal, a circumstance which can hardly fail to result in a good deal of liquidation.

A Just Labor Decision.

The Supreme Court of the State of Indiana, in the case of Karges Furniture Company against Amalgamated Woodworkers' Local Union No. 131 et al., has just denied an injunction which should restrain the defendants from picketing. intimidating and otherwise interfering with the plaintiff's employees. At first glance the decision would seem to be at variance with those of the highest tribunals in other States and a backward step. A more careful consideration of the facts, however, shows that Indiana stands with the other States in protecting the employer from the unwarranted interference of discharged or striking employees, but that the peculiar circumstances before the court justified its decision in favor of the workingmen.

It appears that the Woodworkers' Union of Evansville had about six hundred members. On March 17, 1903, the union resolved by an almost unanimous vote to discontinue working at the various furniture factories in the town unless the employers should make certain concessions as to more pay and shorter hours. The concessions were refused and a strike was declared. An orderly system of picketing was officers of the union according to the following policy:

First, that the members of the union should endeavor by peaceable persuasion, and not otherwise, to induce such woodworkers as were not members and who remained in the employ of the plaintiff to join the union and cooperate in the strike. Secondly, that they should seek the acquaintance of such working non-union men, visit them at their homes and there, and at all other suitable places, discuss with them the mutual benefits of the union and the importance of their quitting work, and by fair argument and peaceable measures try to induce them both to quit work and to join the union. Thirdly, that under no circumstances should any striker endeavor by any form of violence, threat or intimidation to influence the acts or conduct of any one engaged or about to engage in work in the factories in

question. The testimony, however, brought out the fact that despite these instructions a small minority of the members of the union, the defendants in this case, adopted a more strenuous system of missionary | not to discharge him. His "home county" service. The picketing no longer was peaceful. On the contrary, assaults were committed, non-union workmen were called "scabs" and reviled, and as a result of coercion the remaining employees deserted the plaintiff's factory and almost ruined its business temporarily.

The Indiana tribunals, ending with the court of last resort, uniformly held that an injunction would not lie against the union, but would lie against the offending strikers, who acted in opposition to the specific resolutions of the organization. Judge HADLEY, delivering a carefully considered opinion, makes the

following pertinent comment: That fourteen of the six hundred members of the union did disregard the express instructions and declared policy of the union to conduct the strike peacefully, and of their own initiative indulged in acts of disorder calculated to, and did in fact, intimidate the plaintiff's employees, is not of itself sufficient to condemn the union as a body. The strike being properly conceived and conducted by the great majority of members, its purposes will not be defeated by the unlawful conduct of a few rowdles and lawbreakers that may be found among them. 'Where a combination or association is insocent in its inception, says a recent author, but is afterward perverted to unlawful ends, only those participating in the conversion are held to be conspirators. • • • Under no circumstances have pickets the right to employ force, menaces or non-striking workmen to quit, or to induce those otherwise to assemble about the working place in such numbers or in such manner as to impress workmen employed, or contemplating employment, with fear and intimidation. . . .

" It is, however, generally conceded in this coun try and in England that workmen when free from

singly and in combination, cease to work for any employer, but may also, as a means of accomplish ing a legitimate purpose, use all lawful and peace ful means to induce others to guit or refuse em ployment. The law, having granted workmen the right to strike to secure better conditions from their employers, grants them also the use of those means and agencies, not inconsistent with the rights of others, that are necessary to make the strike

effective "This embraces the right to support their contest by argument, persuasion and such favors and accommodations as they have within their control. The law will not deprive endeavor and energy of their just reward when exercised for a legitimate purpose and in a legitimate manner. So, in a contest between capital and labor, on the one 14,660. In 1904 it rose to 38,875 and in | hand, to secure higher wages, and on the other to 1905 reached the tremendous total of resist it, argument and persuasion to win support 77,285. According to the Federal census and cooperation from others are proper to either side, provided they are of a character to leave the persons solicited feeling at liberty to comply or not as they please."

Surely no partisan of either side, no matter how violent, can fail to see the fairness of these statements of the Court or can find fault with the justice of the

Two Weepers.

When that conservative and thoughtful economist the Hon. THOMAS W. LAWSON of Boston invaded the West in search of laurels and to deplete his surplus of wisdom the Hon. WILLIAM TRAVERS JEROME chaffed the good man to his face. The good man broke down and up. Tears gushed from eyes unused to weep. A nervous, excitable child, playing too hard and growing too fast, couldn't have boohooed more easily or more bitterly. The grand triumphal tour was spoiled before the triumph slopover interested the psychologists is not going to secede and will not be aland the pathologists. Was this a speculator with the poetical, impressionable, artistic, quick action temperament? Was this a specimen of the neurasthenia of this swift and violent age?

In the course of his curious theodoric in the Senate last week the Hon. BENJA-MIN RYAN TILLMAN, describing an eviction from the White House offices, wept intermittently. Tears in his voice, distraction in his aspect. Tears dripping from his eyes. A wet speech. Was this dampness a tribute to the Palmetto Senator's power of hallucination and visualization? Did his red words paint the scene so vividly that he looked upon it with red and streaming eyes? Was he "inebriated with the exuberance of his own verbosity"? Or is he, as some other symptoms seem to show, a victim of overwrought nerves, deficient in self-control, on the edge of hysteria and hallucination, gripped by a subliminal demon bobbing up above the threshold of his consciousness? Notice that he lashes himself into fury, yields to the god, strives for and welcomes the possession as any shaman or angekok would.

Is Lawson the weeper, the prophet, the poet, the neurasthenic, the fakir, in the technical and inspired sense, a double personality or indwelling daimon? visualization? Did his red words paint

ized, the strikers being instructed by the increasing the price or selling its Bibles at

ZELL and other illustrious Representatives in Congress have signed a "recommend" of General CHARLES HENRY GROSVENOR and have begged the Eleventh Ohio district pines for him no more. Little wanton boys love to throw bricks at the old man. Besides, there was an understanding, wasn't there, that if the boys would let him go to this Congress he wouldn't be a candidate again? The time of the convention draws near. Old habit asserts itself. What is GROSVENOR to do if he is not a Member? What is the House to do without that fa miliar monument? Well, perhaps the people of the Eleventh Ohio district think they know enough to know what they want and need no advice from Washington or elsewhere. But GROSVENOR would be missed in the House. Better men have been seen in the course of the world's history. But GROSVENOR is always entertaining. No freshman can fill his place in less than twenty years. The guide books will have to be altered if he goes away. Why do the men of Athens, Ohio, desire a new thing?

Birds and Air Lines. To the Editor of the Sun-Sir: Is it no rather remarkable that of all the scientific gentle nen who devote themselves to investigating the problem of aerial navigation, and who from tim to time favor the reading public with their views on the subject, not one ever says anything that is interesting, much less important, to those trying to follow the so-called progress of the proposition?

They tell us, for instance, a great deal about the flight of a bird, the amount of wing surface it requires to support its weight above the earth, the amount of muscular energy that is necessary to drive it ahead. &c., all reduced to a scientific nicety. But there is one trick which the bird performs with its wings and which seems to be the secret of th whole thing that we never hear mentioned. Surely it is not possible that such a simple thing has escaped observation. WOODSMAN

NEW YORK, Jan. 20. Philosophy of Diminution

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I fully agree with "W. R. C.'s" opinion as to the decrease in size of the man in the street. However, size is not a constant quality. If W. R. C. observes more closely he will notice that most men are considershorter toward the end of the month. NEW YORK, Jan. 19.

SECESSION TALK IN CANADA.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.-The report comes from British Columbia that "better terms or secession" is likely to be a political battle cry in the province. The threat of secession may be taken as no more than a healthy bluff. The province does not really want to secede and Canada could not afford to let it go. Moreover, England would in all probability have a word or two to say in the matter, even though she has materially changed the status of her naval station at Esquimalt.

The people of Canada's Pacific coast have a grievance. British Columbia was admitted into the confederation and was granted responsible government in 1871. She came in under specified conditions. Among these there was the grant of a considerable subsidy by the central government and the pledge of a transcontinental railway. The railway was completed, but the Columbians do not think that they are now fairly treated in the matter of subsidy. They want more.

Canada distributes a provincial subsidy fund of about \$4,500,000 a year, in addition to the larger sums expended upon public works within the various districts. Ontario gets about \$1,350,000. Quebec gets a little more than \$1,000,000, and the appropriations to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Manitoba are in the neighborhood of onehalf that sum. British Columbia's allotment is \$307,077, and her people think it is not enough. They claim that since the confederation they have paid into the Federal treasury some \$45,000,000, while only about \$30,-000,000 has come back in the form of subsi-

dies and appropriations. If it could be done without any violent International friction, it might not be a bad idea for British Columbia to imitate the experience of Texas in using independence as a half way house to incorporation with began. This surexcitation, this pathetic the United States. But British Columbia lowed to do so.

Mr. Philip Lane and St. Virgilius.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: AS I am not writing for controversy but for truth but proceed to the principal one in regard to St. Virgilius, one of the great Irishmen of the seventh and eighth centuries.

It is not true for Mr. Lane or for any one else to say or intimate that St. Virgilius was condemned by Pope Zachary for holding and teaching that there are Antipodes. Every authority quoted by Mr. Lane refutes him and particularly Pope Zachary's letter which Mr. Lane garbles. Every one knows what a condemnation means in Catholic law and practice. For a priest, as Virgilius probably was at the time, it usually means sus-

. cording to the able Society is to the direction of able to each of the first that the state of the state of

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19 .- Speaker Cannon to-day ceived from a South Carolina admirer a pair of hand knit home made galluses, to hold up the hand spun home made trousers recently presented by

Suspenders? No. no. Says Uncle Joe. Those pretenders, Vulgar, very. Of mercenary Dry goods venders I decline. You might as well. Says Uncle Joe-Plain, genial jovial statesman-You might as well Ask me to go

another admirer in the Palmetto State.

To hold me together-A bas with convention Have their defenders. Uncle Joe allus Is True to his galluses. Combining with beauty Performance of duty, a The plain homespun pants Adorn and enhance As well as keep warm The plain rugged form Of Uncle Joe Cannon. Who places the ban on Suspenders-Offenders-Those modern upholders Of textile enfolders Of limbs that are nether,

In shoes that were not mates, man,

As use that invention

Unworthy of mention-

And holders together. You know, Of "pants" and of ves2 The gallus is best, Says plain Uncle Joe Homespun arrayed, He leads the parade Of the Gallus Brigade.

Unless the friendly rivalry and emulation of incle Joe's admiring feminine constituents are restrained or directed to other channels, the situ tion may yet become embarrassing. This is an age of exposure; but—there are limits:

E. T. NELSON.

Condensed. Tommy-Pa, what is the Golden Rule Pa-Give your friends the same cigars you smoke AUBURNDALE, Mass., Jan. 19.

PURE AMERICANS.

Honest and Hospitable, Their Virtues Outweigh Their One Conspicuous Fault.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Recently here have appeared in THE SUN three communications from two correspondents upon the subject of the standard of life and morals obtaining among the inhabitants of our Southern mountains. Eastern Kentucky is specifically named by these writers, but that, no doubt, is for the reason that their experience, such as it has been, has been limited to that section. As the inhabitants of southwestern Virginia, eastern Tennessee, western North Carolina and northern Georgia are essentially of the same character as those of eastern Kentucky, their remarks may be taken as applying to the inhabitants of the

entire southern Appalachian district. Is it true, as these correspondents assert, that the people of this section are hopelessly vicious and bad; degraded, as they would have us believe, to the level of beasts or be-low? One would have sent here the scum we are receiving from Europe to teach these mountain folk the ways of proper living. The other would send missionaries from Brooklyn.
As one who has passed a number of years

in the mountainous parts of several Southern States, who for a time has lived among the people as one of them, worked in their fields, taken part in their pastimes, I have the right to refute the greater part of what these correspondents have asserted.

I will grant this: That the hill billy of the

South is ignorant: he is primitive in his methods of eking out an existence; he has not the thrift or the enterprise of the farmer in other parts of the country. His food, generally, is poorly prepared, and the house he lives in is, to say the least, most uncomfortable. I will acknowledge that in one respect he is habitually lawless, but in one only—fighting with firearms instead of with fists. What primitive people living in a rugged region away back from civilization would fight in any other way? How did they do it in the West in the early days; and do yet, for that matter? Why do they make a hero of the Western cowboy (who, by the way, originally halled from the Tennessee mountains) and gallows food of the Southern hill billy?

But even the fighting has been greatly exaggerated. In every community in the world there will be found a few spirits who seek the exercise of their activities outside the pale of the law. Those persons who in a Northern community become drunkards and burglars in a Southern mountain community will be found making blockade liquor or going about toting guns and looking for trouble. A mountaineer never becomes a drunkard and a mountaineer's door is never locked.

Let me acknowledge again that these peoods of eking out an existence; he has not

locked.

Let me acknowledge again that these people are lawless with respect to fighting with firearms. At the same time the proportion of murders (properly so called) to killings is relatively small.

firearms. At the same time the proportion of murders (properly so called) to killings is relatively small.

It is not the matter of fighting with firearms, however, that would engage the attention of a person seeking to discover means of alleviating the backward conditions under which these people live. He would find, upon first observation, that his task was one of bringing an eighteenth century civilization up to a twentieth century standard. The material he had to work with, he would discover, was of uncontaminated Anglo-Saxon stock, than which he would know there is none in the world more solid or better fitted for the arts of civilized life. He would readily recognize the relationship of character to environment, and this would teach him to exercise tolerance in his judgment of faults. In his inventory of the good qualities that he would use as a basis upon which to rear his fabric he would place foremost a deep and kindly fellow feeling, which most notably takes its shape in a hospitality, in have no doubt, that your correspondents in their travels in eastern Kentucky have been only too glad to have bestowed upon them. He would know that a people capable of harboring such sentiments of kindliness for their fellow men could not, at heart, be very vicious or bad. He would discover that the degree of honesty obtaining among them was greater, say, than could be claimed for the people of New York, where, among tradesmen, the art of dealing in false weights and measures, as described in The Sun of a day or two ago, has reached a very high plane of development. Try to imagine the Southern mountaineer doing such a thing!

Upon further investigation he would find that these people were inclined to be serious minded, taking the matters of life with gravity, a trait, however, which did not interfere with a keenness of wit (crude, perhaps) and an appreciation of humor as it occurs in life's ordinary events.

I had thought in this letter to pay some special sttention to your correspondent signing himself "J. J. M., bu

the tariff bill, even if it be of our gold brick Philip-pines and all these conscious and unconscious wits you quote, have naught to do with Art-o even the Gallery that so puzzles me!

Be gentle with me, dear editor, and do not set me down with a bang, but set me down as willing to learn and cager for new instruction

GEORGE FREDERICK MUNN. NEW YORK, Jan. 19.

The Way. To the Editor of the Sun-Sir: Not long ago disembarked from the Lackawanna ferryboat t Barclay street at a late hour of the evening and started up toward Broadway, lugging a dress suit case of no small dimensions. When not far distant rom the ferry landing I was held up by an ill clad but intelligent looking fellow, who asked if he could not carry the sult case for me. Said he: "I am out of work and want to carn a nickel. I have looked for workall day, but could find none." "Why," said I, in good fellowship, "I'll give you a nickel; you need not carry this. I go only to the Bridge."
But he was insistent; he wanted to carry it; he I should have something in return. Believe me. I have roamed about a good bit and have seen man in his many phases, and I know a faker when he confronts me. That man was in carnest. He was willing to work, but could find no em ployer. He was on the borderland of despair Is there no way of assisting the

BROOKLYN, Jan. 19
Y. WILLIAM JAMES, JR. Yes; give them a chance at honest work, whenever you can, just as you did.

Short Studies of Great Subjects. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I would like

to answer "Commuter's" query in THE SUN of January 17. Must we take it to be an established fact that every correct dresser has forsaken the N. S. for P. J. S.? They have also been tried and found wanting. Those of us who continue to assume the fantastic attitudes of childhood when in deep sleep and who are not troubled with cold feet find them deucedly uncomfortable. There are other reasons.

In discarding P. J. S. for the C. D. I. G. you first doff the "pants" part, then proceed as outlined I clean forget about P. J. S.

I clean forget about P. J. S.
I am rather doubtful about the seriousness of the second question. It has rather a trifling tone.
The C. D. I. G. is not creased, and it is rather extreme to suppose that a hasty investment would engender pigeontoed locomotion. It would cause, probably, knocking of the knees, side stepping, crossed eyes and a bad temper.

Follow directions and carefully don the bifur cated section of the C. D. 1. G. Do not try the acrobatic stunt of "Union Suit" of Hartford.

RED AER.

MYSTICAL LORE. Source of Supernormal Knowledge in the

Past and the Future. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I notice in Dr. Funk's letter in to-day's paper with regard to psychic phenomena that he takes very sensible view of the matter. He is a man with a sufficiently well established busi ness and literary reputation, and his opinions should receive the weight and consideration which his standing demands. But we follow the footsteps of Galileo's persecutors with painful reiteration and will eventually

find ourselves in the same category, the laughing stock of all succeeding generations. If we are the children of God, made in His ikeness, must we not of necessity partake of the attributes of our heavenly Father? Now we know that to Him the past, present and future are ever present: that the innumerable worlds scattered through illimitable space are pervaded by Him through endless duration. Is it not natural that we should rise to some measure of the attributes of our

Creator, as far as finite beings can? Look through sacred history. How was ereign, the King of Israel, all the secret plans of Ben-Hadad, King of Syria? Why could the great lawgiver Moses look back from Sinal to the beginning of things, or Daniel look forward to the end? How could Isaiah see and describe clearly the death of our

Lord centuries beforehand? It is the fashion to deride the Delphio Oracle, but depend on it, the Greek was too astute to be fooled all the time. The perfect man, our Divine Lord, pos-

sessed this faculty of knowing men's thoughts and bridging time and space. Calpurnia could see the doom that awaited her husband in the Senate. How could the Highland seers of my native country, Scotland, foretell events centuries

beforehand, as witness Connach Ohr Mac-kenzie, well known to all Highlanders? Let us respect men like Dr. Funk and Wil-liam T. Stead and others who are seeking after knowledge as long as they do as he is doing, pursue it in an earnest, legitimate They devote their attention to manner. things that only future generations will reap

the benefit of. I verily believe that our first interplanetary communication will be through the medium

of thought transference. WILLIAM MACDONALD. PORT RICHMOND, Staten Island, Jan. 20.

MILD WINTERS AND CROPS. Observations of a Ruralist Who Takes the Bear Side.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Whenever we have an open winter like the present there invariably follows a failure of the crops. This is to me a natural phenomenon which my mediocre mind cannot comprehend, and I seek an explanation. That it is a fact faithful personal observation for a score of years

My maple trees are running sap, which is something unparalleled in this section in the mildest winter heretofore known. I have just received a letter from a cousin in Kansas who writes that the blades of his wheat are

who writes that the blades of his wheat are "shrivelled and brown, indicative of a complete loss to me of all the money and time expended on the crops so far, which, you know, is several thousand dollars. My wheat is past revival, and my neighbors' also. I learn from the North that unless a sufficient snowfall comes within a week they will lose all their fall sowing.

Can it be that the pure unnaturalness of it is responsible for this natural miscarriage? I have thought, in case of the maple trees and hickory trees, for instance, that their anachronistic attempts to revivify themselves exhausted all their vitalizing resources, and consequently doomed themselves to a leafless and barren existence for the year. As to the crops, I suppose their failure to grow is due to the loss of the nitrogenous essential of their young life, which the snow imparts.

It is too late now to hope that nature can repair the damage done, but it is not too late scientifically to save the crops in those sections of the country where the injury has not gone too far. I understand that in the Southern wheat belt, where snow does not fail, nitrate of soda is used very beneficially on the sprouting plant. But I am not so much interested in the wheat grower, except in one instance, by reason of consanguinity, as I am in this phenomenon of nature, Can you enlighten me?

NISKAYUNA, N. Y., Jan. 20.

The Higher Criticism Applied to Prof.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Prof. Delitzsch says that our knowledge of Babylonia derived from the Old Testament is

Could any one be so cruel as to put Prof. Delitzsch on a par with the Old Testament and say our knowledge of Babylonia derived from Prof. Delitzsch might be wrong?

No; the Professor is greater than the Old Old fashloned Catholics Protestants and Jews who believe in it are out of date. Away with both Testaments. "Credo in Delitzsch" must be our creed.

It doesn't work both ways. J. F. S.

Far Eastern Notes.

It is reported from India that for political and strategic reasons the King of Afghanistan intends to transfer the seat of government from Kabul to a place in the country to the north toward Badakh shan. This would deprive Kabul of its political importance, but the city would continue to enjoy the commercial advantages that have been created by the factories started there of late years and nited with European machinery. The King has been giving much attention lately to the defences on his eastern frontier, particularly to that part between Kabui and Kandahar.

A singular incident took place at Amritsar in the Punjab during the tour of the Prince of Wales through that part of India. Desiring to see the sacred places of the Sikh religion he visited the great temple for which Amritsar is famed. At rived at the entrance, however, it was discovered to be indispensable that he and his staff should remove their boots before entering. Some parley ing took place with a view to exempting the Prince from the requirements of the shrine, but the religlous authorities were firm, and the incident ter minated by the royal party leaving the temple.

The visit of the Tashi Lama to India has been the cause of great sensation among Indian Bud-dhists. It was difficult to make them believe that it was possible for him to leave the seclusion of his monastery, and the general feeling among them

was one of bewilderment and that there was about to be a great change in the world. There is news from Bangkok that the Stamese Government has decided to form a navy, to consist of three cruisers, three gunboats, two destroyers and three torpedo boats. The orders for the construction of these vessels are to be Japan. It is intended to send several naval stu dents to Japan to profit by the instruction of the victors in the late war. A few months ago it was stated that the Slamese Government had decided to establish a naval station on the island of Koh the mouth of the Menam River, on which Bangkok

is situated. Of the sixty-four foreign merchant steamers captured by the Japanese during the war forty-fivwere confiscated, eight were released after exam the cases of five are still before the courts. On December 18 the preliminary examinations

of the five political leaders, Messrs. Ko Ogawa, Sakural and Tsukuda, charged with sedi tion in connection with the anti-peace nots in September last, were concluded. All five we committed for trial on the higher indictment. An Indian correspondent of a Yokohama paper states that in consideration of the similarity of diet and living between Hindus and Japanese the Brah min priests have decided to relax the rigor of the

ban on Hindus going to Japan to reside or as tour ists. They will not be subject to loss of caste on return to India, as in the case of Hindus visiting the Western countries. This is regarded in India as a great concession and is expected to result in a great increase in the number of Brahminical Hindus visiting Japan.

An Australian who has spent a number of years

in the interior of China says that since the collapse of the Boxer movement and its easy defeat by the Western Powers the Chinese, from the imperial Government down, have realized as never befor the superiority of Western methods in war, but that they recognize superiority in other things is very doubtful. They want to acquire that know! edge which will enable them to westernize them selves, and the Russo-Japanese war has been an object lesson to them all.

A Family Affair .

Othello had just smothered Desdemona. "She had wakened him twice to walk the baby, three times to hunt burglars in the cellar and twice to close the back parlor windows so the rain wouldn't come in," explained his friends

sombre, Shakespeare wrote up a different version.